

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 10:52 AM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Denise Holder; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; KGOU; KOCO; KOKH; Ktok; KTOK; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily
Subject: City of Norman Youth Council

City of Norman
 201 West Gray
 Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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On February 9, 2010, the Norman City Council passed a resolution forming the Norman Youth Council. A Youth Council is an advisory body composed of local youth (sophomore, junior or senior in high school). Norman's Youth Council will provide advice and counsel to City Council and their boards and commissions, as well as other community organizations. The Youth Council also provides youth in Norman an opportunity to learn about their local government.

Youth Councils promote civic engagement among youth by:

- Giving them a formal role in local decision making
- Offering real-world experiences with elected and advisory bodies
- Teaching them about the role of City Councils, boards and commissions
- Providing them with an opportunity to develop leadership skills and learn how local government operates
- Increasing communication between youth and adults
- Increasing youth volunteerism

Youth Councils enable young people to:

- Communicate their concerns regarding local matters that affect them
- Evaluate and advise the City Council on issues forwarded to the Youth Council for advice
- Directly participate in local government
- Make decisions and take action to potentially improve their community
- Assist in planning youth/recreation activities

The City's Children's Rights Coordinating Commission (CRCC) will serve as the sponsor of the Youth Council for the City of Norman with the assistance of the City Manager's office. Members of the Youth Council will attend the monthly CRCC meetings and will be briefed on upcoming City Council and Board or Commission

issues regarding youth. The Youth Council will then forward recommendations regarding the issues to the City Council or the Board or Commission for their consideration.

The City is seeking motivated, energetic high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who are active in their school and community and are interested in local government. The composition of the Youth Council would mirror that of City Council (2 members from each ward and 2 members at large).

Application requirements include:

- Applicants must live in a Ward of the City of Norman. A Ward Map is available at www.normanok.gov.
- Applicants must be a high school sophomore, junior or senior in the upcoming academic year attending a private, public or home school.
- Applicants must provide a completed application, including two letters of recommendation from adults who are familiar with their service to the community and/or their leadership skills.
- Terms will be for the school year from September to May with a limit of two terms.

The application deadline is March 5, 2010. For an application or more information regarding Norman's Youth Council, contact Carol Coles at 366-5404 or carol.coles@normanok.gov. To download information regarding the City of Norman Youth Council and an application, go to www.normanok.gov.